2011 "VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH INVASIVES" GRANTS REPORT FORM

Display Report

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Title:	Steigerwald Lake NWR - Invasive Plant Detection, Control, Monitoring and Replacement with Native Plants
Region: **Use region number ONLY**	1
Station:	Steigerwald Lake NWR
Contact Person: Name and Phone Number	James R. Clapp, (360) 835-8767
Project Description: (Up to 250 words)	This project would maintain and expand annual invasive plant survey, control, & monitoring on Steigerwald Lake NWR. Early detection surveys, rapid response, large scale treatment, monitoring, and GPS data collection would be required to direct and focus strategies to reduce invasive plant threats to a 3-acre area of riparian forest along Gibbons Creek. This area is located east of a 2-acre area to be planted by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership with 2010 CCS funds and a 4-acre area east of that with 2010 Invasives with Volunteers funds during the winter of 2010-2011. This will largely complete native planting shrubs and additional trees in the area along the southern Gibbons Creek shoreline. Invasives include Himalayan blackberry, Canada thistle, and reed canarygrass. Following herbicide and manual treatments by licensed volunteers to remove the invasive vegetation, native shrubs and trees will be replanted to reclaim the areas held by blackberry, thistle, and canarygrass, eventually providing canopy shade to reduce the invasives. This proposal is part of a multi-year effort to control invasives and plant woody vegetation in the riparian woodland along Gibbons Creek Volunteer crews, plant hunters and herbicide applicators will be used after necessary training in invasives control/native vegetation planting and the importance of riparian habitat restoration. To the maximum degree possible, funds will be obligated in FY 2011. Work will take place from Aug. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012, with most invasives control work occurring in fall 2011 and summer 2012, and native planting occurring over the winter of 2011-12.

List of Invasives Species Targeted:	**Common Name**	*Scientific Name*
	Himalayan blackberry	*Rubus discolor*
	Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
	bull thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*
	reed canarygrass	*Phalaris arundinacea*

Project Status:	InProgress
Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: (mm/dd/yyyy)	09/30/2012

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Volunteer Affiliation: (Check all that apply)	VA_FriendsGrp VA_Scouts VA_SchoolGrp VA_Other
Volunteer Involvement: Describe the type of work the volunteers performed. (Up to 150 words)	Volunteers trained in GPS use will survey the project area and record invasives infestation (Himalayan blackberry, Canada/bull thistle and reed canarygrass), recording data on size, location and status of occurrences prior to and after application of appropriate herbicides by trained/licensed volunteers. A report will be prepared prior to the final Invasives with Volunteers reporting date. Reed canarygrass, thistle, and blackberry in the project area was sprayed by licensed refuge staff/volunteers with Gator-mounted sprayer and backpack sprayers. Refuge staff cut dead vegetation on level ground, and volunteers cut dead vegetation with a weedeater/loppers near existing native vegetation and along creek slopes not reachable by the tractor. The project area will be replanted with native riparian trees and shrubs. An estimated 100 volunteers will be engaged as crews for invasives control and native vegetation replanting. Two (2) volunteer herbicide applicators have been trained for ED/RR, and recruiting efforts will be made to obtain additional volunteers. 540 volunteer hours are expected.
Total Number of Volunteers:	473 so far
Total Number of Volunteer Hours:	1429 so far
Partnerships: List both new and existing partnerships utilized in this project. (Up to 150 words).	Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnerships, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts

PROJECT RESULTS

Project Results: Give an overview of the results of the project. Include quantifiable measure of success, such as maps produced, efficacy of control measures, number of sites where invasions were detected early and responded to, number of community contacts, etc. (Up to 250 words).	Progress as of 1/31/2012. 2700 native shrubs/trees and associated tree tubes/bamboo stakes were purchased. A volunteer surveyed the project site with a GPS unit for non-native invasive vegetation. Working together, the area was sprayed in early fall by refuge staff and volunteers to kill canarygrass, blackberry and thistle. Dead vegetation was mowed (staff) and weedeated (volunteers). A volunteer recruitment flyer was developed by a volunteer and sent to past and current volunteers, a variety of organizations (environmental, governmental, educational, etc.), local newspaper and website resources, and e-mail mailings. Sixteen planting events have occurred, with 473 volunteer visits, 1429 volunteers hours, and 8 5th-grade service/learning field trips. During that time they planted 1760 shrubs, consisting of 6 species. They still have an additional 950 trees/shrubs to plant, with planting scheduled through the end of March or when complete. During the summer 2012 volunteers will assist in reducing competition by spraying or weedeating reed canarygrass and doing followup control on blackberries and thistle.
Number of Acres Treated:	3
Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped:	3
Number of Acres Restored:	3

BUDGET INFORMATION

Budget: Account for funds in broad categories such as equipment, volunteer stipends, travel, coordinator salary/contract, etc.

Total Grant Amount:	$ $7,000.00

Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	Total $ Spent	% of Total Grant
Equipment / Supplies	2800	40
Chemical	550	8
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Volunteer Stipends		
Volunteer Coordinator Salary/Contract		
Restoration Materials	3650	52
Other		
TOTAL	7000	100

Recommendations: (OPTIONAL) How useful was this program for meeting refuge invasive species objectives and how can it be improved?	This project is still in progress; evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project.

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